

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. This examiner's amendment is lieu of any previous examiner's amendment and is an amendment to the claims filed June 20, 2008.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Barry Kelmachter (Applicant's Attorney) on September 23, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1 - 36 (cancelled)

37. (New) A removable gripping device for a container, comprising:

two members forming a gripper mounted on a gripping body in which one of the members forming the gripper is mobile and free to move in translation with respect to the gripping body along a direction approximately parallel to a longitudinal direction of the gripping body between an open position and a closed position in which the members forming the gripper are adapted to grip an edge of the container,

displacement means for displacing the members forming the gripper with respect to each other, said displacement means comprising a lever free to move in rotation with respect to the gripping body between an extended position and a retracted position in which the mobile member forming the gripper is in a closed position, and a transmission means extending between the

lever and the mobile member forming the gripper for displacing the mobile member forming the gripper in translation when the lever is pivoted, said displacement means being shaped such that the lever is in a stable equilibrium position when in the extended position and when in the retracted position, and the lever passes through an unstable equilibrium position when passing from one of these two stable equilibrium positions to the other, and

locking means for preventing said lever from moving from said retracted position to said unstable equilibrium position, said locking means being separate from said displacement means and said mobile member, said locking means having a portion which engages said lever when said lever is in said retracted position and which disengages from said lever when said locking means is moved into an active position, thereby allowing said lever to move from said retracted position to said extended position, and an activation button for moving said locking means into said active position, said activation button being separate from said lever, and said activation button is seated on an exterior surface of the gripping body opposite a surface on which the lever is hinged.

38. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 37, wherein the locking means are installed in translation on the gripping body along a direction approximately parallel to the longitudinal direction of the gripping body.

39. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 37, wherein the locking means are closer to the members forming the

gripper when the locking means are in the locked position than when the locking means are in the active position.

40. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 37, wherein the locking means cooperate with the lever by click fitting.

41. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 37, wherein the locking means comprise a tab in which an opening is formed, in which a hook of the lever is engaged when the locking means are in the locked position, and is released from the hook when the locking means are in the active position.

42. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 41, wherein the hook comprises an upper surface adapted to entrain the locking means from their active position towards a position enabling click fitting of the hook in the opening, when the lever is pivoted into the retracted position.

43. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 37, wherein the activation button projects from the exterior surface of the gripping body opposite the surface on which the lever is hinged.

44. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 41, wherein the activation button projects from the exterior surface of the gripping body opposite the surface on which the lever is hinged and the mobile member forming the gripper has a groove through which the activation button is solidarized to the tab.

45. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 37, wherein the locking means and the lever are shaped such that when the locking means are displaced from the locked position to the active position they make the lever move from the retracted position to the extended position.

46. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 45, wherein the locking means comprise an element forming an inclined plane adapted firstly to stop in contact with a contact surface of the lever when the locking means are in the active position, and secondly to impose a pivoting movement on the lever, to move the lever from the retracted position to a position in which the lever is moved to the extended position by the transmission means alone.

47. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 46, wherein the locking means comprise a tab in which an opening is formed, in which a hook of the lever is engaged when the locking means are in the locked position, and is released from the hook when the locking means are in the active position, the hook being released from the opening by translation of the locking means towards the active position before the inclined plane stops in contact with the contact surface.

48. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 37, wherein the displacement means adjust a distance separating the two members forming the gripper in the closed position to match a thickness of the gripped container.

49. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 48, wherein a spring acts on the mobile member so as to enable adjustment of the distance separating the two members forming the gripper and is housed in the transmission means.

50. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 37, wherein the transmission means are formed by a connecting rod free to rotate with respect to the lever and to the mobile member forming the gripper.

51. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 50, wherein the connecting rod is free to move in rotation with respect to the lever under the control of a shaft that is located close to an end of the lever opposite an end at which the lever is hinged to the gripping body.

52. (New) A removable gripping device according to claim 37, wherein said removable gripping device comprises a return means pushing the locking means in a locked position in which said portion engages said lever when said lever is in said retracted position.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NED A. WALKER whose telephone number is (571)270-3545. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Stashick can be reached on 571-272-4561. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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